

# B-RAP news

## Business RECYCLING Assistance Program

Waste Management Information for South Carolina Businesses

February 11, 2004

## B-RAP honors SMI Steel, Horry County with industry, business recycling awards

**COLUMBIA** – SMI Steel, a West Columbia-based mini-mill, was named the state's Best Industry Recycling Program for 2003 by the Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP).

SMI was recognized for its exemplary efforts to divert numerous materials from its waste stream in favor of recycling. Waste reduction and recycling activities have been implemented throughout all areas of the mill including the melt shop, roll mill, customer service/transportation area and administrative offices resulting in the reduction of trash containers from 20 to four.

"SMI has gone beyond the typical office paper and cardboard recycling to incorporate a variety of materials such as pallets, fluorescent bulbs, nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries, computer equipment, oily rags and mats, aerosol cans and parts washer solvents," said Karen Owens, B-RAP manager. "Its waste reduction team has been successful in getting management support as well as buy-in from their co-workers."

The SMI team has used proceeds from its aluminum drink can collections for its employees' emergency fund. The company also participated in the Great American Cleanup last April, accepting nearly 9 tons of scrap metal from the public as part of a special Saturday collection. The Great American Cleanup, a national project of Keep America Beautiful, recruits volunteers to assist in community beautification and litter cleanup projects to promote environmental stewardship.

As a recycling business, SMI Steel recycled more than 700,000 tons of scrap metal last year to make rebar. In addition, the team has implemented significant programs to recover particulate emissions and reduce hazardous waste generated at its facility.



Barnet Polymers was presented with honorable mention recognition for its waste reduction and recycling activities. As a reclaimer of nylon and plastic (polyethylene terephthalate or PET) fibers, the Spartanburg County business has made noteworthy efforts to reuse or recycle its extrusion waste.

Employees also recycle packaging materials such as cardboard tubes and boxes, pallets and bale wrap as well as office materials including copy paper, envelopes, magazines and catalogues. In addition, scrap metal, used oil and acetone are recycled.

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority received recognition for its efforts to promote business recycling within its county. Currently, more than 565

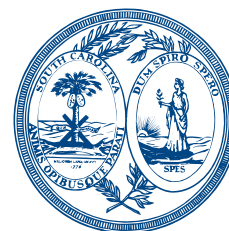
businesses are enrolled in its business recycling program, with nearly 7,500 tons of cardboard and 1,000 tons of office paper collected in fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003). The county also provides marketing assistance, personalized waste audits and customized training programs for area businesses.

B-RAP is a partnership of the S.C. Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council, the University of South Carolina's Industrial Ecology Program and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling and the Center for Waste Minimization.

The program provides free and confidential technical assistance to businesses, industry, government agencies, colleges, and other organizations interested in saving money on waste disposal and conserving natural resources and landfill space. For more information, contact Karen Owens at (803) 737-0239.



Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling  
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[www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle)



S.C. Department of Commerce's  
Recycling Market Development Advisory Council

**ABOUT THIS ARTICLE:** "B-RAP News" is published by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Center for Waste Minimization and Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, the S.C. Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council and the University of South Carolina's Industrial Ecology Program.

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